

A Season at Silliman University

Bart & Priscilla Kelso Return After Ministering in the Philippines

May, 2011

One of the theological tasks of older adulthood is to discern God's blueprint for the rest of the journey.

Bart and Priscilla Kelso in retirement (Bart from the First United Presbyterian Church in Cambridge and Priscilla from Northeastern University in Boston) chose to volunteer at Silliman University in the Philippines where Priscilla studied and taught 50 years ago. From October 2010 to April 2011, they were involved in campus ministry, with Bart assigned to spiritual formation and mentoring among international scholars from Indonesia and Tanzania at the Divinity School. Priscilla taught a graduate course in British and American literature for students in the Masters and Doctoral programs. Both also participated in the life of Silliman University Church.

This venture would not have been possible without the blessing of the Boston Presbytery and a grant from the Committee on Education for Mission. The Kelsos learned much about crossing cultures, working with Filipino counterparts, and living out the Gospel among Christians in Asia and other parts of the world.



Silliman University Church, serving both the campus and the city, will be 100 years old. The Kelsos also served here as Volunteers-in-Mission for PCUSA in 1996.



Silliman University, founded by Presbyterian missionaries in 1901, is a campus by the sea located in Dumaguete City in the central Philippines.



The Kelsos with Indonesian and Tanzanian scholars enrolled in the Master of Theology program at Silliman University.



Divinity School Retreat held in November, 2010

Preparing Workers for the Global Church

Our activities included several retreats for theology students, faculty, and staff at the Silliman University Divinity School, presentations and speaking engagements, and one-on-one mentoring sessions. Extending hospitality to international scholars at our on-campus residence was also part of Christmas and graduation celebrations.



Bart Kelso leads a Bible study with international students.

The Tanzanian and Indonesian students were sponsored by the United Evangelical Mission, based in Germany. All have graduated and are currently being assigned to parishes in their home countries. In a small way, we contributed to preparing workers for the global church.



Priscilla Kelso speaking with a Filipino student.

Intercultural mission work has its place in a world where the proclamation of the Gospel and peace-making go hand in hand. Opportunities abound when *"the heart's deep longing meets the world's deep need."* (Frederick Buechner)



Divinity School students preparing for pastoral ministry.



Elmereck Kigembe (Lutheran, Tanzania) and Joko Mahendro (Presbyterian, Indonesia) at their commissioning.